

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8861

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03269

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: PROPOSED IEA MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: STATE 042891

1. EMBASSY HAD DISCUSSED PROPOSED IEA MINISTERIAL WITH
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND FCO OFFICIALS. AS REPORTED
SEPTEL, UK WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT AT
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MARCH 6-7 GOVERNING BOARD BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT GO BEYOND

STATING IT IS "NOT OPPOSED".

2. WILLIAMS (DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY) SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO TAKE "RESERVED ATTITUDE" AT GOVERNING BOARD. HE THOUGHT THAT IF FULL-SCALE PRODUCER/CONSUMER MEETING WERE TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE OR JULY, MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING OF IEA SEVERAL WEEKS OR A MONTH BEFORE WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HOWEVER, IF PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE WERE DELAYED UN UNTIL FALL, HE BELIEVED IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO AVOID EXCESSIVE BALLYHOO WHICH COULD PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. HE ALSO NOTED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REACH A FINAL DECISION UNTIL AFTER PRODUCER/CONSUMER PREPARATORY MEETING LIKELY TO BE HELD APRIL 7.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH FENN (FCO, ENERGY) HE MENTIONED TWO POINTS. FIRST, AS TO NATURE OF OECD MINISTERIAL, THERE ALREADY WAS A PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEM WHICH DERIVES FROM OECD LONG-TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT. HE FORESEES DIFFICULTY IF WE TRY TO SUPPRESS DISCUSSION IN OECD COUNCIL ON THIS SUBJECT. WHILE UK TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PREVENT UNDERTAKING ASSESSMENT IN OECD FORUM BECAUSE IT REPRESENTED ALTERNATIVE FOCUS TO IEA, UK COULD NOT OPPOSE DISCUSSION AT THIS JUNCTURE DURING OECD MINISTERIAL. FENN ALSO OBSERVED FAILURE TO DEAL WITH EFFECT HOLDING OF A FULL-FLEDGED IEA MINISTERIAL MIGHT HAVE ON PRODUCER STATES. HE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS RELATIVE MERITS OF "DEMONSTRATIVE" MINISTERIAL GATHERING FOCUSED ESSENTIALLY ON PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE

4. FENN CONCLUDED HMG WILL NOT OPPOSE IDEA OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETING AT MARCH 6-7 GOVERNING BOARD BUT WOULD BE SENSITIVE TO WHAT IS SAID ON THESE TWO POINTS.

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